

Lake Boon Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Dec 9, 2021

A meeting of the Lake Boon Commission was held on Dec 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The meeting took place by telecommunications using Zoom, because of coronavirus-related state limits on public meetings per the Mar 21, 2020 order of Governor Baker. The meeting was recorded and is available thru Stow TV.

**Members attending:** Kris Krablin (Chairperson), Dan Barstow (Clerk), Conray Wharff (Commissioner)

**Solitude representatives attending:**

David Mench – Field Operations Manager  
Dominic Meringolo – Project Manager  
Sam Corbin – Biologist  
Shawn McCarthy – Project Manager  
Amanda Macini – field worker

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:00 pm

**Herbicide treatment report – discussion with Solitude**

- Kris explained that tonight’s LBC meeting has a single focus – the annual weed treatment report submitted by Solitude, the contractor that did the work.
- Red Aylward (LBC’s designated liaison with Solitude) asked about the value of defining metrics as goals, such as the terms Trace, Sparse, Moderate and Dense, as used by Solitude.
- Dave Mench reported that Amanda Macini did a mid-year survey on July 29, 2021, but that this was a quick pass, not a detailed set of observations. Kris noted that we didn’t get advance notice when she did the survey, nor did we get a report on the results of the survey
- Dan noted that the water quality report was incomplete, especially in not reporting how well the herbicides has dissipated in what time frame.
- Dominic provided details on the amounts and timing of Sonar application.
- Kris asked why there was a real growth in Fanwart as seen in the final survey and asked why Solitude did not identify this growth and add a mid-year booster.
- Dominic explained that full Sonar treatment only takes places every three years, with the next treatment scheduled for next year, and speculated this might be why Fanwart grew towards the end of this year.
- Dan noted that we’ve been asking for the mid-treatment report for several months, and still haven’t received it. It might have identified the Fanwart growth in time for a mid-year booster.
- Dominic said they had a series of operational issues they had to deal with this year, including staffing shortages (in part from Covid) and extremes of weather limiting when they could do treatments.
- Dan said that when they have such problems, they should communicate with us directly, rather than waiting until the final report.
- Kathy Sferra commented that the contractor should look at the Orders of Conditions, and be transparent if something is not done
- Pam Helinek said she was interested in a flexible contract in the future.

**Public Comments**

- No one had public comments.

**Bills for Payment**

- Kris asked us to consider the remaining bill payable to Solitude, for \$1,562.50. We discussed the fact that Solitude had done the contracted treatment, though we had some management and operational concerns about the process, as noted above. We weighed the issues, and decided to

call the question. Conray moved, Dan seconded and we unanimously approved payment to Solitude.

**New Business**

- The next meeting will review budget(s) for weed treatment from respondent(s) to the RFP, to make sure we request sufficient funds from Stow and Hudson for the one-year contract.
- Red and Dan gave a status report on the draft new RFP for weed treatment, explaining that in discussions with Town Administrator Denise Dembkoski, we were considering issuing a one-year RFP, in which whoever is selected would do one year of treatment along with more detailed discussions of the larger context of the Healthy Lake Boon Initiative, and its whole lake approach, rich data sets and deep scientific analysis, which would in turn define the subsequent RFP for future years.
- Kris confirmed there was no need for a further meeting to review the draft RFP, as this would be approved by the Town Administrator.

**Date of Next Meeting**

- No meeting scheduled

**Meeting Adjourned:**

- Conray moved, Dan seconded and LBC unanimously approved adjourning.
- Meeting adjourned at about 8:30 pm

Approved by LBC on: 1/27/22  
